REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to more particularly claim the invention. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at least at page 1, lines 12-16, page 2, lines 25-30, page 20, lines 13-15, and page 32, lines 23-26. Claim 22 has been added to place original claim 5 in independent form in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 1 and 4. Claims 23-26 has been added to rewrite original multiple dependant claim 11 as four claims in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 has been added to place original claim 11 in independent form by including the limitation of claim 11 in claim 1. Claim 24 has been added as a dependent claim of new claim 22. Claims 25 and 26 have been added as dependent claims of new claim 23. Claim 27 has been added to place original claim 15 in independent form in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of claims 12 and 14. Claims 28 to 31 have been added to rewrite original multiple dependant claim 21 as four claims in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 28 has been added to place original 21 in independent form by including the limitation of claim 21 in claim 12. Claim 29 has been added as a dependent claim of new claim 27. Claims 30 and 31 have been added as dependant claims of new claim 28. Claims 1-31 are currently in the application for examination.

Objection to the Specification:

The objection to the phrase used in the disclosure, "non-free radically polymerizable acids," as being misleading is respectfully traversed and submitted to be in error for the following reasons.

The Examiner has stated that the phrase, "non-free radically polymerizable acids," is misleading because it implies that the acids are not polymerizable by free radicals but are polymerizable by other means. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not the

case. As provided in the specification at page 8, lines 17-22, "non-free radically polymerizable acids," is clearly defined as acids that are not free radically polymerizable. Emulsion polymerization process is a typical free radical plimerization process. The term, "non-free radically polymerizable acids" as used in the specification and claims, does not imply that the acids are polymerizable by other means. Typically, acids that are not free radically polymerizable do not comprise carbon-carbon double bonds and may be organic or inorganic. The examples of suitable non-free radically polymerizable acids as listed in the specification at page 8, lines 24-26 include both organic and inorganic acids. In addition, similar terminology, "acid that is not free-radically polymerizable" is also used in the U.S. patent 5,578,650 (Delgado et al.), which is cited in the Information Disclosure Statement.

Furthermore, in view of the fact that the emulsion polymerization disclosed in the specification is a free radical polymerization, Applicants respectfully submit that it is not material whether the "non-free radically polymerizable acids" could be polymerizable by other means. As applicants are allowed to be their own lexicographer, Applicants use of the term "non-free radically polymerizable acid" in the context of the instant invention is respectfully submitted to be clear and is not misleading.

In view of the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris et al. (U.S. 5,514,122). The rejection to claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-14 and 16-20 is respectfully traversed and submitted to be in error for the following reasons.

Claim 1, as amended, provides an aqueous adhesive composition for use in transfer coating the adhesive composition on a face stock material comprising: (a) from about 5 to about 75 weight % of an aqueous suspension of polymeric acrylate microspheres; (b) from about 25 to about 95 weight % of an aqueous emulsion of crosslinked acrylate polymer; and optionally, (c) a functionally effective amount of one

or more auxiliary ingredients for modifying coating or enhancing adhesive performance properties; wherein the weight ratio, on a solids basis, of microspheres to crosslinked acrylate polymer is about 0.025:1 to about 1.9:1.

Claim 12, as amended, provides an article comprising a face stock material having transfer coated thereon using a transfer coating process a removable or repositionable, pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprising: (a) polymeric acrylate microspheres, (b) crosslinked acrylate polymer, and, optionally, (c) a functionally effective amount of one or more auxiliary ingredients for modifying coating or enhancing adhesive performance properties; wherein the weight ratio of microspheres to crosslinked acrylate polymer is about 0.025:1 to about 1.9:1.

Morris et al. discloses an article having no release liner in which an adhesive composition, comprising 1-60 parts of a polymeric microsphere and 40-99 parts of an acrylate pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) matrix, is direct coated on a backing layer of the article. It is clear that the adhesive composition of Morris et al. is intended for direct coating on the tape laminate for use as backing in a disposable article as Morris et al. discloses on col. 1, line 55 to col. 2, line 4 that the purpose of the invention is to eliminate the need for release liners. Morris et al. also discloses on col. 8, lines 8-15 that the microsphere/adhesive matrix mixture is coated onto a backing. Morris et al. further discloses on col. 10, lines 56-62 that the microsphere/adhesive solution was coated onto the matte finished side of a film backing. In addition, Morris et al. discloses on col. 12, lines 20-24 that the microsphere adhesive composition of Example 3 is coated on a polyethylene film backing using a knife coater, i.e. a direct coating method. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the above clearly shows that Morris et al. is directed only to a microsphere/PSA matrix composition direct coated onto a backing.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Morris et al. does not disclose, suggest or contemplate use of transfer coating as specified in claims 1 and 12 of the present application, because the goal of Morris et al. of having a linerless article specifically teaches away from using other than a direct coating method of applying the adhesive composition. Claim 1 distinguishes over Morris et al. by requiring that the

claimed adhesive compositions are for use in transfer coating the adhesive composition on a face stock. Claim 12 also distinguishes over Morris et al. by requiring that the face stock material of the claimed article has the adhesive composition transfer coated thereon using a transfer coating process. Morris et al. does not disclose or suggest an adhesive composition for use in transfer coating nor does Morris et al. disclose or suggest a face stock material having the adhesive composition transfer coated thereon. Particularly with regard to the article of claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Morris et al. cannot anticipate the article of claim 12 because Morris et al. teaches away from using other than a direct coating method of applying the adhesive since the focus and intent of Morris et al. is to use direct coating and eliminate the use of a release liner. Such a release liner is required in a transfer coating process.

Dependant claims 2-11, and 13-21 are submitted to be patentable over Morris et al. for the same reasons discussed above.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Morries anticipates the instant invention as claimed, and claims 1-21 are patentable over Morris et al.

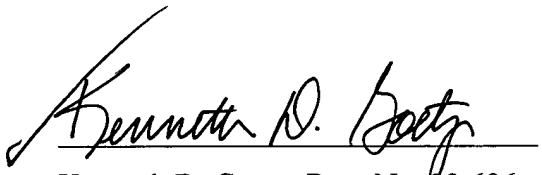
In view of Examiner's statement that claims 5, 11, 15 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 22-31 are allowable.

It is respectfully requested in accordance with the amendment of claims, the addition of new claims, and the discussion above, that the rejection of the claims be reconsidered and claims 1-31, all of the claims in the application, be found allowable.

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE L.C.



Kenneth D. Goetz, Reg. No. 32,696
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 2400
Kansas City, MO 64108-2612
Tel: (816) 460-5849
Fax: (816) 292-2001
Attorney for Applicants